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THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Diſtemper among the French *Horſes. Of the Report of the Duke of* Anjous *Death: Remarks thereon. Reflections on the* Nonjuring-Clergy.

From **Saturday** January the 27th, to **Wednesday** January the 31ſt, 1705.

Obſ. WELL, *Roger*, what News is there at *London*? I hear ſome Mails are Arriv'd.

Country-m. I did but juſt look over the Papers, and can give you no good Account of 'em: But one thing I obſerv'd, That there is a great Mortality among the *French* Horſes, occaſioned by the ſtrangeſt Infectious Diſtemper that ever was known; all the Horſe Doctors in the Army can neither find out the Cauſe or the Cure; they have opened ſeveral of them, and can find no Reaſon of the Diſtemper: Upon which the Prieſts ſay they are Bewitch'd, and pretend to Exorciſe 'em, that is, to Drive the Devil out of 'em; and this they do by the Vertue of Holy Water ſprinkled upon 'em, and ſome of the Virgin *Marys* Hair ty'd to their Manes, and by Rubbing their Fet-Locks with the 19th Leg of the Aſs, on which our Saviour Rode to *Jeruſalem*.

Obſ. Thoſe Prieſts will come in for their own Profit on all occaſions; they'l be paid for their Trinkets whether they Cure or no.

Country-m. I wonder the Medicinal Dr. *Talbor* of *Eſſex*, does not take a turn to *Flanders* on this occaſion, and try his Secrets upon the *French* Horſes, for by his Sermon we may judge he had rather go thither than to *Hannover*.

Obſ. He can caſt out Devils only by the Prince of the Devils, or by the Prince at St. *Germains*, and the *French* Prieſts can do that as well as his Worſhip.

Country-m. Maſter, you know I hate *Papiſts*; and yet if theſe Prieſts do hunt the Devil out of the *French* Kings Horſes, I ſhould be glad if ſome of them would come over and Exorciſe the *Jacobites* in *England*, and *Leſley*, and the other *Nonjurants*; and when their hands are in, I will pray of 'em a caſt of their Office, for your Friend *Robbin Hog*: He is deſcended of the *Gaderean* Breed; for his Coat of Arms is a *Sow*, a *Devil*, and a *Rock*; and ſome Years ſince, when he was dignifi'd and diſtinguiſh'd, he got a Printer for his Chreſt.

Obſ. No, *Roger*, the *Nonjurors*, *Jacobites* and *Popiſh Prieſts*, are too near of Kin; they are poſſeſs'd with the ſame Evil Spirit; and things of the ſame Nature, cannot Operate one upon the other.

But the Mortality among the *French* Horſes is no matter of Jeſt, there's abundance in it.

Country-m. Matter of Jeſt, Quotha! I think 'tis a meer Jeſt for Men to trouble themſelves about Horſes, that make ſuch little uſe of 'em: Why, a *Scotch-Hobby*, or a *Welſh-Keffil*, is good enough to carry a *Frenchman* into the *Danube* to be Drowned; but it ſeems they muſt be Drowned Armed *Cap-a-pee*, to try if they can Shoot the Fiſhes under Water. O! my Conſcience, if a *Frenchman* were to be Hang'd, he muſt be tuck'd up in *Querpo*, *A-la-Mode de France*.

Obſ. I tell thee, Man, 'tis no Jeſt, 'tis a fatal Stroke upon the *French*, next to that of a Victory: The Clandeſtine Traders of *England* may ſend the *French* Ammunition of War, but they can't ſend 'em Horſes, and I hope care will be taken that they ſhan't be ſupply'd from the Empire or from *Holland*: This I tell you is a Principal Verb to be minded, in Order to the Succeſs of the next Campaign, for if they can't remount their Cavalry, they can have no Army, which Eſſentially conſiſts of Squadrons and Battallions: Nor are we to deſpiſe an Army Recruited after ſo Diſhonourable a Defeat as that at *Hockſtedt*, for thereby they may grow Deſperate; and 'tis Natural to believe the new Generals, after the Diſgrace of the former, will endeavour to Retrieve that pretended Glory of the *French* Nation, with which the World hath been ſo long amuſed; no, *Country-man*, don't make a Jeſt of ſuch things.

Country-m. Why can't you let me Jeſt, you may talk in Earneſt your ſelf if you pleaſe; I was at a Coffee-Houſe t'other Day, and there a Man was ſaying, that the *Country-man*, meaning my own Dear ſelf, was become the *Obſervators* Jeſter; Aye ſays another; he's the *Obſervators Terræ Filius*; What's the meaning of that Cramp Name?

Obſ. A *Terræ Filius*, is the Univerſity *Merry-Andrew*, the Fool in the Play, but the Genuine Signification of the Word is a Son of a Whore.

Country-m. Did his Worſhip mean ſo? He's a Son of a Gun for his Pains; and had I underſtood his Gibberiſh, I ſhould have Rub'd down his Calves-hide for his Saucineſs.—— But, Maſter, 'tis my Country Opinion, that the *French* will never be able to Recruit their Army again. This Blow of the Duke of *Marlborough*'s by Land, is like that of Admiral *Ruſſels* at Sea, it hath put them under unſurmountable Difficulties.

Obſ. Were not the Kingdoms of *France* and *Spain* United, the Condition of *France* would be much worſe after this Blow: But *France* now may Command the *Spaniſh* Troops in the *Netherlands*, to the *Rhine*, the *Moſelle*, or any other place where the Neceſſity of its Affairs may require their Aſſiſtance; but this is a forc'd-put, and not to be Executed without apparent danger. The Commanders in the *Spaniſh Netherlands* will Reſent their being drawn from their Poſts and Garriſons to Fight the Cauſe of *France*, and *Frenchmen* left in Poſſeſſion of their Ancient Towns: But the Truſt to be Repoſed in ſuch Men is alſo Queſtionable: 'Tis a difficult dependance upon Men that are diſguſted, and, perhaps, have no other way to Revenge themſelves of the Injuries offered them, than to ſave themſelves by loſing a Battle.

The *Spaniards*, I believe, by this Time, are as fond of their new Maſters as an Ape is of a Whip, and are ready to ſerve *Portocarrero*, as their Mariners do the Ship-God, when he can't appeaſe a Tempeſt: The hardſhips they undergo by their *French* Governours

Governours is hardly to be Credited; and they have now convinc'd the World that there are Degrees of Slavery; for before this Revolution we thought a *Spaniard* could not be made more Miserable.

Country-m. Aye, but here's Mr. *Expreſs* ſays, that the Duke of *Anjou* is Dead, what think you of that?

Obſ. I think 'tis a Story; but whether true or falſe I ſhall not determine; 'tis probable a Story of this Nature may be raiſed in *Spain*, as that was in *England* juſt upon the *Revolution*, when the *Iriſh* were coming from no Body knew whence, to cut our Throats no Body knew when; and yet this Story had the effect of putting the whole Nation under an Allarm, and brought them to their Arms; who knows but the like Project of trying the Tempers and Inclination of the People may be now ſet on Foot in *Spain*?

If the Duke *D Anjou* be not Dead, 'tis at leaſt a probable Conjecture that he won't Live long; the Knowledge of the Tempers of the People, is but a neceſſary *Præludium* to that Trajedy: Without doubt ſome diſgruntl'd *Spaniard* or other has got a *Fig*, and nothing but want of Convenient Circumſtances and Opportunity prevents its being Adminiſtred.

There is ſomething more than Ordinary Reaſon to believe that this may prove a Fatal Year to the *Perkins*; that at St. *Germains* had beſt have a care of his Pottage; his Protector begins to decline in Power, and if he finds he muſt once more be forced to Pray for a Peace, he'll make no Conſcience of removing thoſe Obſtacles that may hinder it, and that by any means never ſo Diſhonourable.

For my part I wonder that there can be ſuch a Poor, Sordid, Senſeleſs Creature as a *Jacobite* in *England*, and that they can depend upon the *French* Kings word and promiſes, when he has deceiv'd em for ſo many Years together. He would not ſheath his Sword; he ſwore he would not do it, till he had reſtor'd a certain Prince to his Dominions; and yet, in a ſhort Time after he ſues for a Peace, and that Prince was not ſo much as once mention'd at the Treaty; and yet theſe poor *Creatures* are miſled to Mourn at the Loſſes and to Rejoyce at every ſeeming Advantage of the *French* Tyrant.

Country-m. I proteſt, Maſter, when I ſeriouſly conſider with my ſelf of the condition of the *Jacobites*, I think 'em bewilder'd. Tho' I hate their Principles, yet I pitty their Perſons that are expos'd to Ruin, together with their Eſtates, and all this for I know not what: Is there no bringing theſe people to their right Reaſon?

Obſ. Truly, *Roger*, if they will not be brought to Reaſon now, I ſhall deſpair of their Amendment. This Government no Man in his right Senſes, or that has an *Engliſh* Heart can Object againſt: It is founded on ſo juſt *Baſis* that there is no Room left for Objection, nay not for ſcruple; and Her Majeſties Reign is attended with ſo much Clemency and Grace, that Envy it ſelf cannot look with an Evil Eye upon it.

You have led me to a Diſcourſe which, perhaps, may be as profitable as any you could have thought of; at firſt ſight it ſeems ſtrange that a good Government ſhould have any Enemies, and yet, when we conſider the depraved Nature of Mankind, its Ambition, its Arrogance and Vanity, 'tis no wonder at all; for the Cauſes of it are Conſpicuous.

I could enter upon a long Diſcourſe of the common Cauſes of Defection from Governments. I could give you Inſtances from *Roman* and *Engliſh* Hiſtory; but I ſtudy plainneſs and to do good, and ſo ſhall only Hint at the Cauſes of Defection from this Government.

I might give one for all, That God has ſuffer'd the Son of *Perdition* to make *Proſelites* in this Kingdom, to miſlead the Children of Darkneſs from their Loyalty to the beſt of Governments, and even to their own Deſtruction.

The chief Inſtruments that Debauch the Minds of Men, and miſlead 'em from their Duty to the Queen and Realm, are the *Nonjurant Clergy*, who being themſelves excluded from Spiritual Preferments in the *Church*, endeavour what they can to diſturb the State; like the Fallen Angels they Envy the Happineſs of thoſe that ſtand right in the Intereſt of the Government: Theſe are the *Meteors of the Church*, the *Wills o'th Wiſp*, that miſguide the Innocent Travellers into the Mire and Dirt: They are the *Pyed Pipers* that make the Children of Ignorance Dance after them to be ſwallowed up by the Mountain. A *Leſley* or *Sellers* does more Miſchief to the Government by their Weekly Libels and Seditious Conventicles, than a Regiment of Horſe can do to the Common Cauſe.

The Perſons that are miſlead by theſe Men are certainly the moſt Ignorant; they don't ſee the Dark Deſigns of Self-Intereſt that are hid under the Covert of their Gowns; for I am perſwaded there is nothing of Conſcience in the Caſe, and could theſe Men get what Preferment in the Church their Ambition leads 'em to deſire, they would be thorough Conformiſts to the Government; but the Deſpair of this makes 'em turn *Politicians*, and Trade in the Affairs of State, tho' the moſt unfit for that Work of any Men Living.

Sir *Thomas Pope Blount* ſays, *When Men Act out of their own Sphere, who can expect any good ſhould come of it? Hence we find it ſeldom happens that the Stateſmen are more Fortunate in meddling with Religion, than the Churchmen with State Affairs; they both Mar all with Tampering out of their Province. Chriſts Kingdom is not of this World, nor ought the Diviners to meddle in this Political Province, and when they do, God knows no ſort of Men proves ſo Unfortunate.*

Says Mr. *Andrew Marvel*, ſpeaking of the Clergy, *Truly I think the Reaſon God does not Bleſs them in the Affairs of State, is, becauſe he never intended them for that Employment: Or, if Government, and the Preaching of the Goſpel may well concur in the ſame Perſon; God therefore Fruſtrates him, becauſe, tho' knowing better, he ſeeks and manages his Greatneſs by the leſſer and meaner* Maxims.

Now a common Capacity might eaſily ſee the intention of theſe Men; why do theſe Wolves put themſelves into Shepherds Cloathing? Is it not to miſlead the Flock? Why do thoſe that are Enemies to the Government, that are Members of the Church or State, Read and Print Lectures of Politicks? Can they have any good Deſign in it? Can any wholeſome Doctrine proceed from ſuch Corrupt Principles as theirs? Let their Votaries but look at 'em out of their Stations, and Judge whether ſuch Renegadoes from God, their Queen, and their Country, ought to be Credited.

Country-m. 'Tis late now, Maſter, I would deſire you to give ſome Reaſon for the Converſion of the *Jacobites* to the Government, but I hope you'll do it another Time.

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